

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT "STELLA.")

Initially connected with the French monarchy of the past—Louis XIV., the Empress Eugénie, who has returned after offering with her usual graciousness in a well-earned letter from her secretary. The work of clearance is proceeding rapidly; those who come to Paris during the coming summer will only see a great void where, 15 years ago, stood the splendid boulevard so intimately associated with the life of the city as it was at the close, and consequently of Europe. It is not yet known to what use the ground will eventually be put.

The Empress, in the letter of thanks she has caused to be sent to the *Figaro*, is stated to have been already in possession of a slab of white marble from the Tuileries, and which she had intended for the front of the stone of a mortuary chapel at Farnborough Hill, to contain the mortal remains of the late Emperor and the Prince Imperial. Another relic of the Second Empire has just disappeared, viz., the aged Duchess de Cambrésis, at the age of 78. The deceased lady was the widow of the Grand Master of France, and she left some £60,000 to the cause of the late reign, and leaves a fortune of over half a million sterling. Six months ago she left a legacy of 500,000 francs to the School of Fine Arts, for the second grand prize of Rome for sculpture and architecture.

A very useful society has been formed here for the establishment of night refuges for homeless wanderers, and another similar one for the night's lodging. This society has just held its annual meeting, at which it was shown that it had lodged, in 1882, fewer than 52,409 persons, and distributed 23,928 food-tickets and 10,022 articles of clothing. Since its foundation it has given 835,388 nights' shelter, and procured employment for 17,590 persons.

A somewhat similar affair has been made by the same society, but on a larger scale, with a view to endeavouring to stem the tide of vagrancy by charitable means. This effort is being made under the form of an agricultural colony at Willemedorf, which lends a helping hand to such vagrants as are willing to work, by offering them shelter, food, and clothing in return for their labour. The colony consists of German-owned land, and the director sends his readers outdoor work nearly always possible. Buildings have been erected, stock bought, and rooms provided for the 200 persons whom the colony is intended to house at one time, each person on entering the colony has to sign a contract stating that, being unable to obtain work elsewhere, he wishes to enter the colony, and that he will accept of Willemedorf, that any sums he may earn over and above this are the property of the colony; that he will not take away the clothes lent him until he has fully earned them ; and that he will work for the first fortnight for board and lodging only. For the next four weeks, if his behaviour is good, he will receive in addition, in case of a longer stay, to 40 pfennigs a day. In case of piecework the bonus may be still higher, and this class of work is recommended as distinguishing the mere idle vagabond from the really willing labourer. As soon as the colonist has earned his clothes he is required to leave the colony, and to accept at Willemedorf that any sums he may earn over and above this have earned his clothes in about three months.

The colony was started last autumn, and is not yet self-supporting. The director calculates that each man costs about one shilling a day, while the average worth of the day's work of such a man is but sixpence. Supposing that the colony can sustain 100 cottages, and at some times, this would represent a loss to the colony of some £900 per annum. But it is argued that it would be far cheaper for the provincial authorities to subsidize this amount, as these 100 men at large in the province as vagrants would cost a much higher sum. Thus, the small province of Lippe-Detmold estimates that it would cost the State to support 100 vagrants £5000 a year. The short period during which the Willemedorf colony has been in existence, without its adjuncts (the relief stations), render it impossible to give more than an approximate estimation of its results; but reports from the districts concerned already show a decrease of vagrancy. It is probable that the colony will be founded in two or three other provinces of Germany.

It is said that invitations to the Russian coronation have been sent to carefully-selected anti-Republican journals of this city. Their correspondents are to be speedily treated. The Czar will pay their travelling and hotel expenses, and present them with a banquet. The radical *Revue Socialiste* suggests that they would do well to ask for prepayment, as, if all is true about the dynamite preparations, there may be no paymaster after the ceremony.

The tercentenary celebration of the birth of the great jurist, Hugo de Groot, better known as Grotius took place a few days ago at Delft, when the executive committee, consisting of the Mayor, the Aldermen, and the members of the town council, gathered round the tomb on the old Rijkswal and an elegant oration was delivered on his character. A distinguished company was present; but if Grotius were aware of the present state of affairs in this planet, it is probable he would consider that something more than law-making is needed at this date.

APRIL 20.

The dreaded "red moon" seems to be running its course without doing much damage. The unlucky frost of a fortnight ago have destroyed a portion of the fruit crops in the North and South of France, but the vines of the central region prove to have been less injured than was supposed. The appearances arising from the cold weather seem to indicate that the farmers are rejoicing in the hope of an abundant harvest of grain and vegetables.

From statistics recently published it appears that France imported during last year 119,416,000 gallons of Spanish light wines, and 2,172,598 gallons of cherry and similar hot wines. The French imports of wine of all kinds rose 10 per cent. in 1882, and the Spanish wines have increased. But the increase in the manufacture of the poisonous compounds that are "wine" only in name is going on, also, in a still larger ratio.

The opening of the Exhibition of Decorative Art has given an agreeable place of prominence to the decorative arts, and has brought before the public architecture, painting, sculpture, metalwork, jewellery, tapestry, porcelain, ornamental glassware, printing and books, a vast number of beautiful and interesting objects have been brought together, and so eager is the public in its inspection of the various *chefs d'œuvre* that this yearling fair has proved to be a most successful one. Decorative art will probably add henceforth to the annual exhibition of fine arts in the industrial Palace of the Champs Elysees.

The anniversary of the birth of the late M. Richard, one of the earliest French advocates of free trade occurred a few days ago, and was duly honoured by the free traders. Richard, a native of Trelat, in the Ardennes, began his life as a clerk, and called his home in the streets of his native town. He passed through various vicissitudes, until in 1790, at the age of 25, he was able to set up as a linen and diamond merchant. Not long afterwards he engaged in a branch of trade in which his native Normandy has since rivalled him—the sale of English cotton goods. He entered into a partnership with a merchant named Lenoir-Dufrenoy for the sale of English cotton goods. Eventually the firm brought over a number of Manchester workmen and began to manufacture the same class of goods for themselves. Their spinning-mills proved a great success, bringing them in a handsome income of £100,000 sterling a year, and the wealth of the partner, in 1803, Richard added Richard's name to his own, and was thenceforth known as Lenoir Lenoir. He extended his business, and was soon in possession of cotton-fields of his own in Italy, besides importing large quantities of raw cotton from America; his workmen, in 1808, numbering 2500, and his exportations amounted to £1,400,000 sterling a month. The first Napoleon, with the unscrupulousness which was one of his leading characteristics, seriously compromised Richard Lenoir's fortunes and usefulness by imposing an import duty on cotton, with the effect of establishing cotton plantations in France; and the great industrialists of the country, who were anxious to get rid of the cotton duty without indemnity to those who held stocks, the losses of Richard Lenoir amounting, at a single stroke of the pen, to £250,000. He died in 1830, followed to the grave by an immense cortege of the working classes, who recognised in him the benefactor of thousands, for whom his speculative sagacity and skill could have secured a more valuable inheritance.

The Third Empire, in giving the name of Richard Lenoir to one of the principal new thoroughfares opened by Baron Haussmann through the heart of the great working quarter on the eastern side of Paris, paid but a fraction of the debt owed to this eminent industrialist, whose country it is now vain to call a republic, and whose dynasty had not unscrupulously ruined him.

Good many statutes have been enacted of late years

The Municipal Council of Paris makes no secret

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The correspondent of the *Hongkong Daily Press* w

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(From the Pall Mall Gazette.)

[illegible]

Faculty). No other remedy is half so effective. One Lozenge alone gives relief.

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OFFICES to LET, ground and second floor. Apply Australian Wireless Fund, 254, George-street.
OFFICES to LET, on first and ground floor. Apply 96, Elizabeth-street, near King-street.
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TO LET, for three years, SHOP in Oxford-street.

Apply W. Andrews, 21, Castle-~~ne~~g-street.

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TO LET, 6, Gordon-terraces, Liverpool-street East, 8 rooms, bath, &c. Apply at No. 1.

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